

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application:

Claim 1 (previously presented)    A system for maintaining a child's feet in a predetermined therapeutic arrangement, the system comprising:

    a splint comprising:

        a rigid elongated member comprising a left end and a right end;

        a right shoe engaging plate adjustably coupled to said elongated member;

        a left shoe engaging plate adjustably coupled to said elongated member;

        a right end adjustment mechanism disposed between said right shoe engaging plate and said elongated member, said right end adjustment mechanism for making angular adjustments;

        a left end adjustment mechanism disposed between said left shoe engaging plate and said elongated member, said left end adjustment mechanism for making angular adjustments;

        a right quick release mechanism coupled to said right shoe engaging plate;

        a left quick release mechanism coupled to said left shoe engaging plate;

a right shoe detachably coupled to said right quick release mechanism;

a left shoe detachably coupled to said left quick release mechanism;

a left recess disposed inside of a left sole of the left shoe, wherein said left sole is a single piece of molded material and wherein the left recess is configured to receive and selectively latch therein said left quick release mechanism; and,

a right recess disposed inside of a right sole of the right shoe, wherein said right sole is a single piece of molded material and wherein said right recess is configured to receive and selectively latch therein said right quick release mechanism.

Claim 2 (previously presented) A system of claim 1 wherein said right sole is a single piece of molded material which comprises a sole heel, a sole toe end and a sole bottom.

Claim 3 (previously presented) A system of claim 1 wherein said right shoe further comprises a foot and ankle holding removable insert which has an orifice on each side of a heel engaging section which permits viewing of a patient's foot as it is inserted into said right shoe.

Claim 4 (previously presented) A system of claim 3 wherein said removable insert has a first orifice outside end on one side of the heel engaging section and a second orifice outside end on an opposing side of the heel engaging section, such that

viewing of a patient's foot is permitted through at least some area extending between the first orifice outside end and the second orifice outside end.

Claim 5 (previously presented)     A system of claim 3 wherein said orifice on each side of the heel engaging section is a plurality of discrete orifices separated by material across a portion of said heel engaging section configured to surround a portion of a patient's heel.

Claim 6 (previously presented)     A system of claim 2 where said quick release mechanism includes a quick release button which releases attachment when pressed in a direction toward said sole and an interior portion of said right shoe.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (currently amended)     A system ~~of claim 7~~ for maintaining a child's feet in a predetermined therapeutic arrangement, the system comprising:

a splint comprising:

a rigid elongated member comprising a left end and a right end;

a shoe engaging plate adjustably coupled to said elongated member at each of said left end and said right end;

a right end adjustment mechanism disposed between said shoe engaging plate and said right end of said elongated member, said right end adjustment mechanism for making angular adjustments;

a left end adjustment mechanism disposed between said shoe engaging plate and said left end of said elongated member, said left end adjustment mechanism for making angular adjustments;

a shoe coupled to each of said shoe engaging plate;

said shoe comprising a single piece removable inner foot and heel cradling insole insert, which is sized, shaped and configured to provide full heel support; and

wherein said single piece inner foot and heel cradling insole insert has a relatively flat insole sole foot side and a pair of opposing insole side walls and an insole heel and ankle support section.

Claim 9 (previously presented)     A system of claim 8 wherein absence of material in said insole heel and ankle support section permits visual inspection from both sides of a patient's heel of placement of a patient's heel into said insole heel and ankle support section and contact with said insole sole foot side, while providing support for the heel and the ankle.

Claim 10 (previously presented) A system of claim 9 wherein said absence of material is a plurality of discrete insole heel right viewing holes disposed on opposing sides of said insole heel and ankle support section.

Claim 11 (currently amended) A system ~~of claim 7~~ for maintaining a child's feet in a predetermined therapeutic arrangement, the system comprising:

a splint comprising:

a rigid elongated member comprising a left end and a right end;

a shoe engaging plate adjustably coupled to said elongated member at each of said left end and said right end;

a right end adjustment mechanism disposed between said shoe engaging plate and said right end of said elongated member, said right end adjustment mechanism for making angular adjustments;

a left end adjustment mechanism disposed between said shoe engaging plate and said left end of said elongated member, said left end adjustment mechanism for making angular adjustments;

a shoe coupled to each of said shoe engaging plate;

said shoe comprising a single piece removable inner foot and heel cradling insole insert, which is sized, shaped and configured to provide full heel support; and

wherein said shoe has disposed in a single piece of molded material a structure for mating with said shoe engaging plate.

Claim 12 (previously presented) A system of claim 11 further comprising a quick release button coupled to said shoe engaging plate, said quick release button being configured to snap into a locked configuration when inserted beyond a predetermined location, and said quick release button further being configured to release said shoe from said shoe engaging plate when a force is applied on said quick release button in a direction toward said sole of said shoe and further in a direction toward said single piece inner foot cradling insole insert.

Claim 13 (original) A system of claim 12 wherein said right end adjustment mechanism comprises a first threaded means for pivoting a bar around an axis; and a second threaded means, which is not symmetrical about said axis, said second threaded means for fixing an angular adjustment at a discrete predetermined arrangement.

Claims 14-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (previously presented) A system for maintaining a child's feet in a predetermined therapeutic arrangement, the system comprising:

a splint comprising:

a rigid elongated member comprising a left end and a right end;

a shoe engaging plate adjustably coupled to said elongated member;

a right end adjustment mechanism disposed between said shoe engaging plate and said elongated member, said right end adjustment mechanism for making angular adjustments;

a shoe coupled to said shoe engaging plate;

said shoe comprising a single piece inner foot cradling insole member;

wherein said shoe engaging plate is not coupled to said shoe by a threaded elongated member;

wherein said shoe is coupled, via a quick release mechanism, to a first end of an adjustable splint assembly;

further comprising a second shoe coupled to a second end of said adjustable splint assembly;

wherein said adjustable splint assembly further comprises a shoe separation setting device comprising a first set screw and a second set screw; and

wherein said single piece inner foot cradling insole member has a plurality of protuberances which extend through holes in said sole of said shoe.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A method of treating a patient's club feet at a predetermined angular orientation and separation with respect to each other, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first shoe with a sole having a recess structure, disposed in a single piece of molded material, the recess structure being configured to detachably couple with a first latching mechanism, without using an elongated threaded member extending into said sole,

inserting a patient's foot into said first shoe;

providing a second shoe with a sole having a recess structure disposed in a single piece of molded material, the recess structure being configured to detachably couple with a second latching mechanism, without using an elongated threaded member extending into said sole;

providing an elongated member having an adjustable length;

coupling said first shoe to a first end of said elongated member; and,



coupling said second shoe to a second end of said elongated member.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A method of treating a patient's club feet at a predetermined angular orientation and separation with respect to each other, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first shoe with a sole having structure formed integrally therein, configured to couple with a first latching mechanism, without using an elongated threaded member extending into said sole;

inserting a patient's foot into said first shoe;

providing a second shoe with a sole having structure formed integrally therein, configured to couple with a second latching mechanism, without using an elongated threaded member extending into said sole;

providing an elongated member having an adjustable length;

coupling said first shoe to a first end of said elongated member;

coupling said second shoe to a second end of said elongated member; and

further comprising the steps of:

depressing a button on said first latching mechanism, in a direction toward an interior portion of said shoe, and releasing said shoe from said elongated member;

making adjustments to angular orientations of said first latching mechanism and said second latching mechanism, by removing a screw and pivoting said first latching mechanism around a second screw;

fixing said adjustments at a predetermined setting by securing said first screw into a predetermined hole and tightening said second screw; and,

coupling said first shoe to said elongated member.

Claim 22 (original) A method of claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

making a length adjustment to said elongated member; and,

tightening a first set screw and a second set screw to fix said elongated member at an infinitely variable length.